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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

January 9, 2003

For immediate release

- 1. Lower Gar Lake TMDL meeting scheduled for Jan. 21**
- 2. Approval of master matrix on EPC agenda for January 21**

LOWER GAR LAKE TMDL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JAN. 21

ARNOLD'S PARK — A public meeting to discuss plans to improve water quality at Lower Gar Lake will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Maritime Museum in Arnold's Park.

"The Iowa Great Lakes system is one of the premier water resources of the state. We highly value the input we receive from local residents when it comes to improving water quality," said Marian Maas, supervisor of the DNR's TMDL program.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide public input on the TMDL developed for Lower Gar Lake. TMDL — or Total Maximum Daily Load — is the name of the process used to address impaired waters. Simply put, TMDLs calculate how much pollutant a water body can receive and maintain its designated. The designated use for Lower Gar Lake is aquatic life.

High nutrient concentrations, specifically total phosphorous, are the start of a causal chain leading to nuisance algal blooms that reduce transparency in the water at Lower Gar Lake. This situation has created a water quality condition only partially supporting aquatic life use. Causes of the lake's poor water quality is shallowness, re-suspension of nutrients and sediments due to wind, boat traffic, and large numbers of rough bottom fish and nutrients delivered from the watershed.

The DNR will be providing information on the proposed TMDL for Lower Gar Lake and discuss written public comments received to date. There will also be time provided to receive additional public comments regarding the TMDL.

- The draft TMDL can be obtained from the following sources:
- Internet — [Http://www.state.ia.us/dnr/organiza/epd/wtresrce/303dnotc.htm](http://www.state.ia.us/dnr/organiza/epd/wtresrce/303dnotc.htm)

- E-mail — william.graham@dnr.state.ia.us
- Telephone by calling William Graham at (515) 281-5917
- Mail by writing: William Graham%Iowa DNR
- Wallace State Office Building
- Des Moines, Iowa 50319

For more information, contact William Graham at (515) 281-5917 or Kevin Baskins at (515) 281-8395.

APPROVAL OF MASTER MATRIX ON EPC AGENDA FOR JANUARY 21

DES MOINES — At its Jan. 21 meeting, the Environmental Protection Commission will make decisions on the master matrix developed for county use in evaluating the proposed locations of larger confinement feeding operations

Proposed confinement facilities that need construction permits must attain a minimum score on the matrix, consenting to exceed the minimum requirements for environmental and community impact factors.

Commissioners must make key decisions on the following:

- 1) a minimum total score,
- 2) if there should be subcategories for air quality, water quality and community impacts,
- 3) if there should be a minimum score for subcategories, and
- 4) if community support or non-sub-therapeutic use of antibiotics should be included as factors in the matrix.

Called for by Senate File 2293, only counties that adopt a construction evaluation resolution can use the master matrix to evaluate proposed sites.

The regular EPC meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at the DNR office, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Public participation is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

Commissioners will meet at the same location at 10 a.m. on Jan. 22 to hear appeals from two counties on the proposed facilities of Dutch Creek/Kaiser Production in Dickinson County and Fremont Ridge L.C. in Fayette County. Presentations from the county, the applicant and the DNR will be heard on Jan. 22. The meeting is open to the public.

The complete agenda for the Jan. 21 meeting follows:

- Approve Agenda
- Approve Minutes for December 3, 2002 and December 16, 2002
- Director's Remarks

- Final Rule - Chapter 65, Animal Feeding Operations (Master Matrix)
- Contract - Aquadrill, Inc - Construction and Testing of Monitoring Wells
- Contract - United State Geological Survey - Stream Gaging and Water Level Measurements for FY03
- Proposed Rule - Chapter 109, Special Waste Authorizations (General Special Wastes)
- Final Rule - Chapter 117, Requirements for Waste Tire Facilities (Set Back Distances)
- Contract - HDR Architecture, Inc. - Sustainable Development Consulting Services (Amendment)
- Final Rule - Chapter 7, Rules of Practice in Contested Cases
- Final Rule - Chapter 2, Public Records and Fair Information Practices
- Proposed Rule - Chapter 22, Controlling Pollution (Title V Fee Cap)
- Referral to the Attorney General
- M.A., Inc. and Mark Anderson
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion
- Items for the Next Meeting

The members of the commission are Kathryn Murphy, Chair, LeMars; Terrance Townsend, Newton; Lisa Davis-Cook, West Des Moines; Rita Venner, Breda; Gary C. Priebe, Algona; Darrell Hanson, Manchester; J. Kelly Tobin, New Market and Lori Glanzman, Mt. Pleasant. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.

For more information, contact Karen Grimes, at (515) 281-5135.